

UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP
METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES

RESOLUTIONS OF THE U.F.M.C.C. Committee on Racism - August 11, 1976

Because of the need for the message of the Gospel to be presented to all people, and because of the special calling of U.F.M.C.C. to preach to all oppressed and alienated people, the Committee on Racism presents the following resolutions for adoption by this General Conference:

1. That in all churches serving a community where a significant number of people in the community speak a language differing from the dominant language of the community:
 - a. The practice of reading of the Gospel in both the dominant and non-dominant languages at all worship services be continued.
 - b. The churches develop means to minister to the people not speaking the dominant language of the community. The services provided for the non-dominant language speaking people should include, but not be limited to, pastoral counseling, fellowship, and Christian educational growth.
2. That churches which serve communities where there are significant numbers of people not belonging to the dominant culture (for example Blacks, Youth, etc.) experiment with ways to incorporate forms of worship indigenous to these groups into the form of worship of the total church.
3. That a spanish language caucus be established to coordinate efforts to minister to the spanish language population as a precedent for other non-dominant language caucuses.

RATIONALE

In Matthew 28: 19-20 we are told "Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations, baptise them in the name of God the Creator, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you." (Jerusalem Bible). If U.F.M.C.C. is specially called to serve all alienated and oppressed people, then we must learn how to minister to each group of oppressed people. This, in part, entails learning to communicate with each group in a way meaningful to them. These resolutions address themselves to two aspects of the communication of God's Gospel to God's people.

The first aspect is that of forms of worship. On the broad scale we have in the past developed our form of worship from those of various denominations. This "horizontal" ecumenism has allowed us to reach people from such diverse backgrounds as Roman Catholic, Pentecostal, Methodist, Etc., Recently, various M.C.C. congregations have begun utilizing "vertical" variations in worship which many denominations are now using, for example, folk-type worship, Black liturgies, multi-media worship, rock services, etc. It is vital that U.F.M.C.C. encourage churches to experiment with varieties of worship forms which address themselves to the various peoples in the community served.

The second aspect of the communication of the Gospel to all people is related to the means on "language" in which the message is presented. This aspect has in the past prompted the Fellowship toward:

1. degendering of services so that the true message of the Gospel can be presented to women in a way that is meaningful to them and which simultaneously presents to all of us a broader, more encompassing understanding of God
2. Development of ministries to people in communities served by M.C.C. who do not speak the dominant language of the community.



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3. Development of ministries to the non-hearing and non-seeing, so that the deaf and blind can also be brought to know the love of God. (Realizing that the matter of ministry to the deaf and blind falls outside the jurisdiction of this committee, all materials gathered by this committee on this facet are being forwarded to the proper people. This committee wishes to state clearly that there is no difference in the attitudes creating, and the results of, racism, sexism, ageism, and any other form of discriminatory action or thought.)

The U.F.M.C.C., at this General Conference, must encourage and promote continued forward movement into this area of our ministry to all people.

In the coming year, this committee projects (a) the establishment of resource centers for "vertical" forms of worship and for ministries to non-dominant language speaking people, and (b) the development of affirmative action guidelines to significantly increase the degree of effective minority leadership at all levels of U.F.M.C.C.

